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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the unsealing of a federal grand jury indictment charging James B. Cox, age 40, and his wife, Stephanie M. Cox, age 36, both of Forest, Virginia, in connection with a wire fraud scheme and money laundering. The charges carry a maximum penalty of up to 20 years of imprisonment and a fine up to \$500,000. James Cox is scheduled to appear tomorrow before United States Magistrate Judge M. Hannah Lauck for a hearing on whether he will be released pending trial. Stephanie Cox was released on bond in Roanoke, Virginia.

The indictment alleges a wire fraud scheme that began while James Cox was employed by the Sonoco Products Company at Sonoco's packaging facility in Chester, Virginia. It is alleged that during his employment with Sonoco, James Cox stole large quantities of Hewlett Packard ink cartridges and then sold them to Triangles, an online retailer of computer equipment based in North Carolina. From December 2001 to March 2004, payments totalling \$699,985 were wired from Triangles to James Cox for the stolen cartridges. Both James and Stephanie Cox, are alleged to have then laundered the proceeds of the theft by purchasing vehicles, expensive vacations and an educational savings plan.

Also announcing the indictments today is Special Agent-in-Charge, Donald W. Thompson, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Richmond Field Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Laura C. Marshall.

All defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty.

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